

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Andres Labrador

"I went over here in the shop. I wen bring over there for shoes up the horse. And then, one horse, wild bugger, he scared over there. He no going inside the stall, eh? I wen grab the neck, I push, push, push, that horse. Oh, boy, one time, he wen stand up. I better let go. I look, high already the ground, no can. I no can hold. I bin fall down huh? The horse, he know already, he can catch me. He kick me. I no can move. I stay flying yet. Catch me over here. Three rib wen broke."

Andres Labrador, youngest of five children, was born October 18, 1901 in Sibonga, Cebu, Philippines. His mother, Juliana Villarte Labrador, taught at a Catholic school and his father, Silverio, was a fisherman in the village. Andres often accompanied his father on fishing trips and helped sell the catch.

Lacking a formal education, Andres, together with his new bride, Baldomera, boarded a ship and arrived in Hawai'i in March 1922. His first job on Kōloa Plantation was kālai. After three months, he became a mule man, guiding and taking care of the plow mules in the fields.

In 1926, Andres was assigned to Kōloa stables. He was responsible for the care and feeding of horses and mules used on the plantation. He and his growing family lived next to the stables, located near Kōloa Mill. In 1941, Andres suffered an injury which left him partially disabled, but he continued to work.

As plantation mechanization eliminated the need for horses and mules, Andres, in 1948, began working as assistant luna and centrifugal operator in Kōloa Mill. He retired in 1966. Today, he and his wife, Baldomera, live in one of the last remaining homes in Kōloa New Mill Camp. They raised six children.

Tape No. 15-47-1-87

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Andres Labrador (AL)

July 14, 1987

Kōloa, Kaua'i

BY: Chris Planas (CP)

[NOTE: Also present at the interview are Rosalina Wagner (RW), AL's daughter; another daughter, Florence Artiago (FA); and Baldomera Labrador (BL), AL's wife.]

CP: This is an interview with Mr. Andres Labrador on July 14, 1987 at his home in [New Mill Camp in] Kōloa. Interviewers are Chris Planas and Rose Wagner.

First thing is, when were you born? What was your birth date?

AL: Nineteen one [i.e., 1901]. October 18.

CP: And where were you born?

AL: In Philippines.

CP: What city?

AL: Sibonga, the city. Sibonga is my town [located in the province of Cebu].

CP: Do you remember your parents' names?

AL: My father is Silverio.

CP: Okay. And how about your mother?

AL: Juliana.

CP: What was her last name? Maiden name?

AL: Villarte.

CP: And, let's see. How about your brothers and sisters? Do you remember your brothers and sisters?

AL: Yeah, I know. That one, I got eight brothers and sisters but that

time some wen die, and only five alive. Margarita, oldest, and second, Teodora. The third, Ponticiano. And the boy is number four, eh? Jose. And then me.

CP: You were the youngest, then?

AL: I am the youngest.

CP: Did any of your brothers and sisters come to Hawai'i before you?

AL: No more.

CP: Only you?

AL: Only me.

CP: What kind of work did your parents do?

AL: Oh, mostly Philippine people, he's working his own land.

CP: Did you have land? Your family had land?

AL: Oh, they got little bit because no can live with no more. If no more, well, you work [for] somebody.

CP: Your father, he was a farmer?

AL: No, not regular. Just only he work our little land so we can live, you know. But mostly, he living through the fishing because we [lived] near to the sea.

RW: They were near the ocean, so their livelihood was fishing.

CP: Oh, I see. Did your father have a boat?

AL: No, no more. That place we stay, they got any kind [net] for catch the fish, you know. They call them hukilau or the "surround" net. That's why, my father, he only work the little land we had, and then for money, from the sea, follow the fishermen. Yeah, they live. That time over there when they catch the fish, they sell and, they divide the money and they give him some, too.

CP: Oh, I see. Did your father bring fish home, too?

AL: Oh, yeah. He gotta.

CP: What kind fish would he . . .

AL: Oh, any kind. Any kind fish. Not the big kind fish, the small kind. Because they take for the hukilau. Big kind net.

RW: Surround net.

AL: Yeah, that, about sixteen persons, they bring out that, throw surround, surround the pile [of] fish, and then they bring 'em out.

CP: Did your father make net, too?

AL: They don't make, but the rich man, that's the one, they owner to all the fishermen. Not labor, but anybody can volunteer for fix the net, you know. Yeah, sew the net or anything.

BL: For huki for the fish.

AL: Oh, we pull da kine.

RW: They pull the net in.

AL: They put that one if they got the pile (of fish). They no throw the net if no more [fish]. That's why, the big kind surround net, our big kind net, [you need] about sixteen guys, pulling out the net.

CP: Did you ever go with your father? Fishing?

AL: Oh, sure, sure. Before, I small time, I job over there with my father. Yeah, I stay watching, you know, ending of the rope. Because the net is about how many hundred [feet] around. And then, they got the rope over here, about 200 [feet] long, the rope. That's the one, the people, they going two sides, they going bring. You got to make 'em even so the fish go straight to the pocket, eh? They no like hit the side of the net, the side that bin not so even. Because he like that all even because, you know, the fish is in the middle, eh? And he no like the fish run away and bang on the side of the net. He like [the fish] go straight in the pocket.

CP: So, actually, you stay on the [boat] and you throw the net?

AL: Oh, yeah. The net, when finish catch the fish, you wash 'em good in the same water, salty water, and dry 'em.

CP: How did you guys throw the net?

AL: Big boat. Big thing go drop it.

RW: Drop afar, and then they bring it in.

AL: Drop over there. Somebody going bring that one, the big boat . . .

RW: You know, the big boat, with the skiff?

AL: . . . and two men going throw the net. When they throw the net, they got young boys or how many boys. "Go ahead. Jump over there and make noise."

RW: Have to make noise, hit the water . . .

AL: So the fish, he no come out. He stay in the middle of the net.

CP: Oh, how you make noise? You slap the water?

AL: Oh, [we] play. Play in the water. Because we no can pull the net, the rope, because [we are] small yet, eh? No more strong. So the small boy, "Go ahead, play." He wen give us money when they sell the fish.

CP: So actually, you only need one boat?

AL: Oh, that guy got plenty boats. He got the small one, he got the big one.

RW: But for do that, Tay, how many boat you need?

AL: We no more boat. We just follow the guy, he got the boat.

CP: And you used to go out with your father and help, yeah?

AL: Oh, yeah, before. Yeah, the time I kinda big already, about fourteen, I think, I bin go follow [on] business [on] sailboat. Sailboat for buy any kind this side and sell the other side. Other island.

RW: They exchanged.

AL: Buy the fresh fish or salt fish . . .

RW: Different islands, they would bring their wares, you know.

AL: We call up. So-and-so, this kind fish or salt fish, like that, how much one tin in the market.

RW: They sold it by the tin.

AL: In the market. And then, we bring over there.

CP: Oh, and then you go to different islands and sell?

AL: Oh, we go around. Sometime, two, three months, six months, one year, we no can come home yet. We stay floating in the water.

RW: Because they're catching, and they're delivering, selling, and then they buy. They exchange with what they need and bring.

AL: Yeah, we buy with this county on this island. Oh, we find out what they need. We buy 'em. And then, we call other place. What prices selling over there. Quick, we go. We make money.

CP: So you go for long time?

AL: I bin quit because, you know, I jealous [because people] my same

age, I think, fooling around the girls already. So I bin quit.

RW: And staying inland and looking at all the beautiful girls. (Laughs)
At least he's honest now. He never used to tell us that, you know,
when we were growing up.

AL: I bin quit and what I going do? Because I no like work the land
already. Our small place for make plow like that and plant
something. I'm lazy, I never used to go work that kind. How hot.
My brother-in-law was carpenter. "Oh, you got no more job how long
already. You only fooling around, fooling around. How you can get
the money? You no follow da kine commercial [fishing] now."

"Oh, no."

"Oh, well, maybe you come with me. I make you the carpenter."

I try over there. Try, try and then, I bin the carpenter little
bit. And then, I stay over there for long time until I bin got
married.

CP: Oh, when you became carpenter, how old were you? Sixteen?

AL: Oh, about seventeen, eighteen, I stay over there.

RW: Apprentice, only.

AL: Yeah. But nineteen, I bin married already, or twenty. [AL married
in 1921, at age twenty.]

CP: So you were a carpenter for maybe two years?

AL: Ah, I think more. Yeah, more, I think.

RW: Two or three years.

CP: When you were carpenter [apprentice], what did you do?

AL: Oh, the first time just I stay under the good carpenter and they
give me the wood, so many feet. How long, what kind. Because that
one, he stay on top or he stay the side, he like the helper only for
bring, eh? I think no more one year, though, I know already how to
measure the wood. I can make, too. But my brother-in-law, he say,
"Better you buy tool. You got what I pay, well, you go pay [for]
your tool."

Quick, I buy. I can [buy] little bit but not [for] so long because,
you know, young boy, no interest in buying. Only (chuckles) working
for money and quick, he going come home. Because like [get into]
trouble nighttime. Yeah, that's how, my life.

Yeah, and then I think 1917, oh, my [female] cousin, bin see him
[her] (AL points to wife, Baldomera). Oh, they [say] get one girl,

more better go marry 'em.

RW: He meant "her."

CP: Your cousin tell you?

AL: Mm, "You go marry him [her]." I don't know, I never see 'em [before].

CP: What did you think?

AL: Oh, no, I no going marry. But then my auntie, they no like I stay like this, I'm single. She like I go and marry. [My cousin said,] "You and me just like brother and sister. I believe you and you go believe me, too. Well, more better we marry together." [AL's cousin wanted AL to marry Baldomera; AL's cousin wanted to marry Baldomera's brother.]

CP: Oh, so actually, your cousin was getting married, so she like you for get married, too?

AL: Yeah. That's why, the brother [of AL's wife], he stick around to my cousin. Oh, that's why, he come around. He come down. He [lived] kinda far to my place, you know. Then, he all time come over here. And he show me. "Oh, this the girl."

"No, I no like marry her."

"Go ahead, go ahead."

CP: How come you no like get married yet?

AL: No more [marriage] in my mind. Because I got one brother. I got other one, my cousin like that. All hard time, they married in Philippine Islands. Hard time, you know. That's why, oh, I excuse myself for marry. Bumbai, I going marry and I going get the baby. Who going support my wife and our baby? But I can find the money here and there because I know carpenter already and I know to ride da kine, the sailboat. And maybe I going follow the fishermen. Yeah, they get plenty, quick, the money in my place. Yeah, but them, hard [work], you know.

Then, them, all they say, "Go ahead, go ahead," because my auntie, my uncle like that, the cousin I got, they no like fooling around all time.

CP: Wait. I have a hard time understanding this.

RW: He didn't want to get married yet. They [AL and a female cousin] were close relatives. They were close to each other, so she [cousin] had wanted him to marry her [i.e., Baldomera]. And then, she was going to marry her brother [i.e., Baldomera's brother], something like that.

CP: What made you change your mind?

RW: All the relatives went and proposed.

AL: . . . all the whole family, they go over there. What I going do? I never see him [her] yet. And then, one night he [i.e., she, Baldomera] bin come over there, that house, because, you know, all time we go to the dance or party.

BL: No, Santa Cruz de Mayo. I go.

RW: They have celebrations a lot in there.

AL: But I never say nothing. Then when she, my mother, said, "Well, that girl, tomorrow, I going see to the parents. I going propose [for] you."

Well, my goodness. I am not slow boy. I am lively boy. [I say,] "What the hell you propose [for] me and I never see the girl yet?"

RW: He was angry.

AL: Yeah. Yeah, no can, no can. [AL's mother said,] "I no like because I know you, whole night, I no can sleep. You all time go here and there. More better get married."

RW: He goes out a lot. He's never home. So by them making an arranged marriage, they'll know that he'll settle down.

AL: That's why, my mother, tomorrow, he [she] like propose (for) me.

BL: He only he grab me from the crowd. "Come here."

"What for?"

He said, "My mother, he [she] propose tomorrow for you."

I tell, "Oh, I don't know."

CP: Oh, so you never [met] each other [before]?

BL: No.

RW: No. And when she first saw my father, she was afraid of him because he was dark. You know, he was always exposed to the sun, fishing, and she never thought he would be that dark.

CP: When was the first time that you saw each other?

AL: Oh, plenty time, but I no take notice.

CP: But the first time, the first time you saw her?

RW: Yeah, he said he saw her many times, but he never took any interest until the mother told him . . .

AL: No, all time, he [she, Baldomera] going come to my cousin, and my cousin call me, "Come. Oh, this the girl." I see him [her], but I never interested. Bumbai, they going propose me for marry because he [she, AL's cousin] say he [she] like marry to the brother [of Baldomera], huh? Yeah.

CP: But, you had girlfriends before?

AL: Hoo, how pretty.

RW: About a dozen. He had pretty girls. (Laughs)

AL: Some, I catch.

RW: He said he still saw them, that gal, that he really liked.

BL: Plenty, he no stop.

AL: Yeah, that time, that time they wen propose my mother, well, the people, they bring me over there. Sometime, "Oh, we go. We go bring to the girl house. You going big place." But me, oh, me, hard time . . .

RW: He didn't care.

AL: . . . why I going marry for. I know the married life.

RW: You know why, Tay, you had your own freedom. You had freedom, so you didn't want to give up that freedom.

AL: And then, settle down about the propose, my mother. They leave me to decide one year. Because she listen what kind family. Good family or not. Because mostly in the old style, eh? Like know the family.

RW: They were talking about dowry.

CP: You were engaged for how long?

AL: Oh, long time.

BL: Fifteen until eighteen, I think . . .

CP: Oh, so you're engaged for three years?

BL: Yeah.

AL: No, no more one month, I think, the parents, not so good looking to me, you know.

RW: They weren't very happy with him. Her parents.

CP: Her father never like you?

AL: He no like me because I no work in the land. I don't know how to work the plow in the land.

CP: So, mostly your mother pushed the marriage, yeah?

AL: My mother, that's the one. My mother and my cousin.

RW: They all wanted. All of them wanted the two of them [to marry]. But the two of them [AL and BL] never really wanted.

AL: No. See, maybe he [she] no like me. I get trouble. Cut off [the engagement].

RW: Where you had trouble, Tay? What kind trouble you had?

AL: You know, the boy, eh?

RW: Oh, he got caught with another girl, so they kind of broke up. How many months you folks broke up?

AL: Oh, long time. About two years, because we young yet, about seventeen.

RW: Oh, the engagement was off, but they just knew each other.

(Mill whistle blows in background.)

RW: And then, what year you folks went back again? When you was eighteen? When you was nineteen?

AL: Yeah, well, nineteen.

RW: Twenty. Because, see, Mama two years younger than you, no?

AL: Mm hmm.

CP: So, you break apart for two years?

RW: Yeah.

AL: I think more, though. Because I bin go work carpenter yet that time. So, I in the city about almost two year, though.

CP: How did you guys come back together again?

RW: Yeah, how you folks come back . . .

AL: That's why. Yeah, that time I come [back] over there. Because the time they bin cut off . . .

RW: When he returned.

AL: . . . cut off engage, my mother bin call me. Because I bin tell my cousin, when they cut off the engage, tell my mother for don't go see [her]. Because cut off is cut off. No tell nothing. No find out what wrong I got, to be cut off. And me, I no care. The time I come home, come from the city, my mother scold me. "No, no. You like marry or not, take care the girl. So you try, you and him (her) visit."

CP: Where did you go talk to her at?

AL: Oh, my cousin house. But far place, you know.

RW: They had to propose.

AL: About [the same distance] from here [to] Lāwa'i, I think. But hard time for go. No more, no more . . .

RW: Road.

AL: They got road but only two people can pass.

RW: Footpath.

CP: Then when you went over there, what did you say?

AL: Well, they was crying because why I do that. They no find out what the reason. The parents wen [write to me] for cut off [the engagement], but she's not the one that wen [write] for cut 'em off the engage.

RW: She didn't know he had quit her.

AL: But they said, "No can." I no can do nothing. . . .

RW: But she was waiting for him.

AL: Yeah. Well, what I going do now? I got no money. How I can raise?

[BL said,] "Oh, well, never mind. You no more money, no more money. You like I go with you now, anytime."

BL: He [BL's father] no like I marry him [AL]. Suppose I come old, who like me? I work hard in the home. And they [BL's parents] said before I die, you marry. What you going do? Eighteen, already. I tell, I go cook [for a living].

CP: Oh, I see, your father [didn't like him].

BL: Everybody no like him.

RW: He was lazy.

AL: No, because I no work in land.

RW: He worked in a ship. Just as hard work, that.

CP: So then when you went to go see her, she didn't know that you were broken up?

AL: She know. She know because the parents, they bin make the letter over there for send to my mother to cut off.

CP: But then when you went back again . . .

AL: Oh, I no say nothing.

RW: But how come they like you marry?

AL: Because that time, he [she, Baldomera] bin call me for he [she] like talk to me. They talk sad, you know. "Why you do that? Why you no see me for long time?"

Well, what I say? Because cut off already.

She said, "I never cut off to you but only my parents. Only my parents, they cut off. I never cut off."

CP: Oh, she asked you how come you don't see her for long time.

AL: And then, what you going do? [She said,] "Well, I like more better us to going marry."

"What I going to do? I get no more money."

"No, never mind the money. We can find our living. You like now, we go. I go with you."

Yeah. We never marry good condition, you know. We wen marry, no got house.

CP: So, then that day she tell you she want to marry you?

AL: Yeah. That day, I feel my heart sore, you know. Hoo. How come? I no like marry, but then I think out. Well, tell her, next Sunday, I going see her again. Only the Sunday I can get time because the father is gamble, you know. "When I can see you again?"

"Well, anytime now. You like, come back. We like us two going marry."

CP: That first time you saw her again, you tell her you marry her?

AL: No. Not yet.

CP: So when you went the following Sunday, the next Sunday . . .

AL: I going find out [whether or not she is] eighteen years old. Well, we no got house, we going get married. Okay. My mother, he [she] wen find out herself, the age. Well, da kine said, well, okay. Anytime, you can do now. Nobody can hold.

RW: She was of age, so she can get married.

AL: We wen marry over there about, just couple months, only we stay for marry. I had a hard time because how can?

RW: He lived with all the family.

AL: And I not used to give to him [her] because I give all time [to] my mother, you know, when I got the money.

RW: His money was given to his mother [before AL married].

AL: How I going do this? Ah, more better we go Hawai'i. Tell him, [her, Baldomera] "We go." No more one week.

RW: They were on their way.

CP: No more one week after you married?

RW: A couple months they were married. He said, "Why don't we leave this kind of livelihood and take off."

BL: Because near in the town, that one, [labor recruiting] agent. Easy for go over there in the house [i.e., office].

AL: Yeah, before, the people, they going come Hawai'i, oh, big spend, the company, you know. Ten dollars, one person. Me and him [her], twenty dollars.

RW: Yeah, they paid you ten dollars per person. You know that?

AL: And, they go supply everything. Clothes, shoes . . .

RW: For them, that was a good beginning. I meant to tell you their wedding anniversary was '21, yeah? Did I say '21 or '22? My brother was born '22.

FA: [October 18] is [AL's] birthday and their anniversary is on October 13, [1921].

CP: Oh, okay. So you got married only five days before your birthday?

BL: Mm hmm, mm hmm. But he no make twenty. Because no more birthday, yet. Only nineteen.

AL: Nineteen.

RW: So he had to put his real birth date.

BL: Yeah, real birth date. The court, he no like all for this one.

RW: He didn't want even how many days in there. It had to be recorded that age, that he was still nineteen. But few days [after] their marriage, he became twenty. But he came to Hawai'i . . .

BL: Yeah, twenty. Twenty . . .

RW: Yeah, finally. Because they left December.

AL: Oh boy, that was long. I leave in January [from] Manila. We leave over there. And then, we coming Hong Kong.

RW: She [BL] got sick.

AL: No can already. She got sick from the ride [from] to Manila to come in Hong Kong. Because hoo, the boat was going [from] Manila . . .

RW: Was so rough. And she was pregnant, so she was very ill.

AL: No can get up already in the bed, that time we was in Hong Kong. In hospital. Oh, then bin stop over there about one month. Yeah. Then that time he [she] wen come good, the guy wen tell me, "Oh, how? You going Hawai'i yet? You like go back in Philippines, well, go back. If you like go in Hawai'i, well, then go. You wait some other trip, they got one boat come from Philippines. A boat to Hawai'i." But long time already, about two months. Yeah, and the boat, too, that time we leave over there in Hong Kong, I don't know what time. Because we leave in Hong Kong two nights and one day, I think, eh? From Hong Kong to go Shanghai?

RW: Oh, Shanghai? Oh, yeah, that's right. You folks had to stop Shanghai, yeah?

AL: From Shanghai to Nagasaki, same days. And from Nagasaki to Kobe, same, same.

RW: Two days and one night.

CP: Were there a lot of people on the boat?

AL: Oh, the full. Full, so many . . .

RW: But everywhere they go, they had to stop.

AL: Yeah. For go pick up, pick up da kine. Pick up the load . . .

RW: The ship was picking up a load, picking up supplies, and picking up passengers . . .

AL: And then, from over there in Kobe, to Yokohama.

RW: Oh, Yokohama yet?

AL: Yokohama, the same days. Two nights and one day. Long way, boy. And then we was in Yokohama I don't know how many days. That's big load already.

BL: Eleven days, that one, Yokohama [to] Honolulu.

AL: No, twelve. Twelve days. Go slow.

CP: Oh, it took twelve days to get from Yokohama to Hawai'i?

AL: Mm hmm. Yeah, then we stop over there about three days, I think, Honolulu office.

RW: In the immigration?

AL: Immigration [station].

RW: And then, you folks caught the. . . .

AL: This Kaua'i.

RW: They landed at that landing there.

BL: The Kōloa Landing.

RW: And then, they had to have a skiff to take the passengers and their belongings.

CP: You know, when you came to Hawai'i, could you speak English?

AL: No, no, no. Because before time, when you come over here for make you sign, you got good handwriting, quick, they find out. You one, oh, you student, no can [come to Hawai'i]. He like labor.

RW: They wanted strictly laborers. They didn't want anyone with education.

AL: No, I no can talk English, nothing.

CP: How about Tagalog? Could you speak Tagalog?

AL: No, no can. Visayan. The Visayan island, well, I around that but all Visayan word.

CP: You went to school, yeah, in the Philippines?

AL: Catholic kind school.

CP: How long did you go?

AL: Oh, just little because only my mother wen teach me because she teacher in school, our place. Because . . .

RW: Mostly he had special tutoring.

AL: . . . before, that time, no more school to learn English, you know. No more.

RW: They didn't force. That wasn't mandatory.

AL: Yeah, no force. I don't know why. The people, before, they scared when they calling [you] for [attending] school [to learn] English. They run away. That's why, they mostly in the Catholic [school] and they leave 'em alone. My mother teach over there, high grade, I think, like Spanish. Spanish school. Yeah, my mother can talk Spanish, you know. But me, I never take long for school. I don't know why I bin catch on quick. I bin learn quick. Not too much book even . . .

RW: So I think if we all went to school when we were young, we would have been brilliant. Because we were graspers. We grasp.

AL: Yeah. Then the time we reach in Kōloa, we get last kind pay [from] the plantation for eat over there. For breakfast in Kōloa.

RW: The last freebie, you know. Everything after that, they had to purchase.

AL: They divide. That's already the supply. Five dollar, five dollar, the family. Three dollars for the single.

RW: They gave them [advanced] stipend like.

AL: That one, they just sign so they tell them, "You got to pay [it back] when you got money." Anyway, you got to pay because they hold up in the office, eh?

RW: Tay, when you started, how much an hour you had? I mean, not [hour]--one day.

AL: One day, dollar already.

RW: He just missed the seventy-five cents a day.

CP: When you first came to Kōloa, your wife was saying that the following day you had to go work already?

AL: Oh, no rest. We reach over there today and tomorrow, work already.

CP: What was your first job?

AL: Oh, that's hoe. Kālai.

BL: Kālai kō.

CP: And how long did you do that for?

AL: Oh, just only couple months because all time I going that mule job or what kind job [i.e., other jobs]. [When people] no come out, the people sick or they feel tired, quick, he [i.e., a luna] going take me for go [substitute] over there.

BL: Good boy, good boy, sa trabaho.

RW: The one that was in charge [of the mules] always didn't come to report to work. So they found him [AL] to be a very dependable person, they made him do that.

AL: Yeah, the luna, he look me, I'm lively boy . . .

RW: He meant to say good worker.

AL: . . . quick, he pick me up, for put here and there, who need. Yeah, for couple months, all time I come like that, no more steady job for kalai. The luna, he wen tell the boss to the stable, more better I work steady to the mule. Yeah, I work steady about \$1.08, one day.

RW: He got promoted to stable man.

CP: So you work in the mill after that?

AL: No, I work in the . . .

RW: Stable?

AL: I work over there about couple year.

RW: In the big stable.

AL: About, no more one year, though. I work in the light kind job in the mule. Pick from the one mule, two mule, four, five, until seven. Oh, that's the one, hard job, boy.

RW: What you have to do with the mule, Tay?

AL: Oh, plow, before. Plow, the seven mule. One plow, seven mule going pull. Because only one machine, I think, before.

RW: No more machine, yet, Tay.

AL: No, they get. The steam plow.

RW: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's right.

AL: And then, I don't know why, they [coworkers] help me good. I can understand. I can talk little bit. Any kind mix up, Hawaiian, Japanese.

RW: When he started, pidgin. They were talking pidgin.

CP: You know, when you work with the mules, what did you have to do exactly?

AL: Oh, the longest I working in mule outside, the kinda hardest job I got, for plow, the seven mule for pull the plow.

CP: What did you have to do? You tie the mules to the plow?

AL: Yeah. You got four mule this side, she get one cinch in the middle.

CP: Cinch in the middle? Okay.

AL: Yeah. Cinch in the middle, and you got three mule in front.

RW: Chain, Tay?

AL: Yeah, chains. And seven altogether. That's the one they calling the big kind plow. They calling that breaking plow or mule board. That's mule board. But not everybody can, that mule board, because you use that for irrigation, eh? Yeah. But I don't know. Only I work little while, quick, they give me da kine job. And I can understand. I know how to make ready. What other people, they make, I can make. Oh, I got good job, though. I got good pay, already. What they pay the old-timer, they pay. Twenty-eight or thirty [dollars a month]. Thirty dollars, come up. Thirty-five. The last one is thirty-eight dollar. That's good pay already. Good pay already.

CP: How long did you work with the mules?

AL: Oh, long time. Because 1922, '23, '24, '25. [Nineteen] twenty-six, is da kine, is half [of that year] already I work that, they call me for I take care one stable.

CP: Oh, I see, okay.

AL: Yeah, I work over there in stable. That's the longest . . .

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

CP: So you worked with the mules until 1926?

AL: Mm hmm. Nineteen twenty-six. About half year. After that, I wen work take care one stable.

CP: Did you move house also?

AL: Oh, yeah. Because the stable, only one house. Yeah.

CP: How many children did you have by this time?

AL: That time I bin go down the stable, I got three children already. That's why, I got the hard time. Before, when I work in the field, I wen drive the haul cane mule for bring the cane outside [to the main track]. Hard time. Because no 'nough the empty car. We come home nine o'clock in the night, and we [go] back four o'clock in the [morning]. She [RW] still small baby yet, too, that time. And we washing clothes, yet. We get laundry, you know. And I wash over there, nighttime.

CP: Oh, you wash clothes, too?

AL: Washing clothes. How can wash da kine, she stay lay down on the table, baby? Yeah. My life, before, some life. I don't know.

CP: When you work at the stable, what did you have to do?

AL: Oh, I take care the mule, all the animals over there.

CP: What you have to do every day? What were your jobs?

AL: Oh, that one, if that stable I stay watching has branches, you got one big stable in town [i.e., the main stable, which was located near Spanish Camp] and that one is branches over there, when the job over there cutting cane or he going plow cane like that, that's the one, all they stop over there and they give me men for help me out for feed the mule or clean the manure.

CP: Oh, I see. You do all that?

AL: Mm hmm.

CP: What did you used to feed the mules?

AL: Oh, you know, the cane top. The cane top. They grind that from big stable and they send over there [AL worked at a branch stable near New Mill]. They grind over there inside the bag. That's why, we reach over there, I put 'em in the [feed] box.

RW: And barley.

AL: Barley, everything.

CP: Do you have to take care of any horses, too?

AL: Oh, any kind horse. Riding horse, and plow horse. Yeah.

RW: And donkey.

AL: Pack saddle horse. We got. Mm hmm.

CP: And how long did you do this job for?

AL: The stable, twenty-one years. And then, if the machine [i.e., mechanization introduced after World War II, which eliminated the sugar plantations' need for horses and mules] never come, I don't know, maybe until now, I going get pension. But the machine, he bin come, they going throw away all the animals. I got no more job. He like give me job on the field, but told 'em, "Ah, more better I go home. I like go home Philippine."

CP: Oh, yeah?

AL: Mm hmm. But the superintendent in the mill said, "Oh, never mind." You know [Samuel] Wickey, eh? That's the one he come, "No, no. I give you job in the mill."

CP: He gave you a job in the mill?

AL: Mm hmm. Just only extra. Just sweeping. About how many year, [AL just swept] I got no more [any other mill] job yet.

RW: Just as an extra.

AL: Extra man. I learn plenty kind job over there, but no more steady job.

CP: Oh, so you worked in the mill? You sweep?

AL: Oh, sweep for about one year. Because I no more regular job, eh?

CP: And then what happened?

AL: Oh, and then the time somebody, he wen go home or what kind. Retire? I wen take over there [in] the sugar room. I bin taking charge over there for how many year.

CP: Oh, you became a luna?

AL: Yeah, assistant to the luna.

CP: What year was that?

AL: I don't know what year, though. I forget that. Because long time. I work my job before about one year, or no more one year, quick, then I got the promote [to assistant luna]. Yeah.

CP: So maybe about 1947, '48?

AL: About '48. No, '48, '49.

CP: Who was the luna at the time?

AL: Oh, the luna in the sugar room, plenty luna. Three. Three shifts, the luna. Because Sandy . . .

RW: Sandy, the name, Tay?

AL: Sandy, the name.

RW: What's the last name?

AL: Tabuchi, the father, the name.

CP: Tabuchi? Japanese?

AL: Japanese.

RW: Yeah. He was one of them.

AL: Then Sukisaki.

RW: Sukisaki. That's in different shifts, you know. They had the shifts, three. And then, you, Tay?

AL: Then they wen come, the new machine. I was assistant luna, but no can. No more already. I wen come down for operator. No assistant luna already. I wen go operate. And then I stay over for how many? Until I bin retired already.

RW: Until he became sixty-five.

AL: Yeah, I used to operate the [centrifugal] machine.

RW: Exactly sixty-five years old.

CP: Oh, which machine did you operate?

AL: Oh, da kine for cook the sugar.

RW: He made beautiful sugar . . .

AL: Beautiful sugar, da kine. Not boiling. Not boiling sugar. The boiling is different. I stay down for cook the sugar already. From over there, they put 'em in the big tank. Then we put in the machine, the one I scared. The machine, he going come more better than me, you know. Yeah, the electric, boy! Before, we don't know how they making that. No more man going operate. She working by himself. They got three machine over there. Nobody show you. You put the switch only, put the switch for start 'em up. She go. She make finish the job himself so long no more trouble, the switch. Boy, came nice, the machine, the electric kind. And they get the cover over there. They pick up the machine and they hang up the machine. I don't know why.

RW: Everything was automated.

AL: Before that time, I wen work over there by [hand] power, oh, I got blister over here for . . .

RW: He used to do manually, but when the new machine came, the machine did the work.

AL: When the machine, boy, how more easy.

RW: He was amazed to see how the work was done beautifully.

AL: Hoo, shee, I feel funny. The electric, somebody know how to make more easy for the man.

CP: When you used to cook the sugar, what did you have to do? Before the machines came?

RW: Did it with his hands.

AL: Just only I watching the machine. How many machine over there. Just I watching over there. All machines running.

CP: So when you cook the sugar, you just supervise?

AL: Oh, the supervisor, only himself. He go here and there.

CP: And what did you do?

AL: Take care the sugar.

CP: No, but exactly---what I'm trying to find out is, what did he have to do? Did he have to make sure the sugar went into the vats or did he. . . .

RW: All by switches. And he have to remember.

AL: They give signal, the sugar going come down. This big kind. Big kind ton. I don't know how many because the sugar going fall down on the flume, eh? The three machine going da kine, about this long from the flume.

CP: I think I going stop right now.

RW: Okay.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 15-53-2-87

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Andres Labrador (AL)

August 11, 1987

Kōloa, Kaua'i

BY: Chris Planas (CP)

[NOTE: Also present at the interview is Baldomera Labrador (BL), AL's wife.]

CP: This is an interview with Andres Labrador at his home in [New Mill Camp in] Kōloa on August 11, 1987. The interviewer is Chris Planas.

Okay, Mr. Labrador, the last time we were here, I just started to talk to you about your jobs, yeah? I think we left off in 1926. You were working . . .

AL: Yeah, start working at stable.

CP: Yeah, you started working in the stable. How did you get that job?

AL: Oh, that's danger job. Because the horses and mules. Especially Sunday afternoon. Because Saturday afternoon, pau hana time, that one, they let it go, every one for put in the pasture, take grass. Make 'em sleep over there.

CP: Oh, I see. On Saturday?

AL: Yeah, Saturday. In Sunday about one o'clock, half past one like that, they ready for come inside. They come inside and ready the food over there already. And that's the one hard time because some, he know what place he stay living. But most, he don't know already because Saturday--one whole night, no more food, he stay in the pasture. They rush over there, and go ahead, grab the food over there in the feed box. That's why, you got to catch that one, one by one, grab the neck and put rope. Bring 'em the regular place they got where [they] stay. 'Cause no can mix up that to the other one because not friend, eh? You got to make 'em partner-partner. Yeah, that's the one, that's the one I have a hard time in Sunday. And to pass that horse and mule, I got to pass behind [them] so I can grab the neck and bring 'em outside, put. Yeah, that's the hardest time when danger, because some, they fighting no put that [rope].

CP: So you got to make 'em partner-partner. What does that mean? You got to put two together?

AL: Two together, one room.

CP: But you were saying it's dangerous?

AL: Was dangerous, that. And you must know [each horse] from the feet until the body to the eye, everything. Because if you don't know--about the horse, same the mule. But you must know. Yeah. Because if he stay here with somebody already, they start fight already. "What the hell you come with me. You not my partner."

CP: Oh, I see. So certain horses, they used to being with each other?

AL: Yeah, from long time.

CP: Oh, and then, but if [they're put with a] different horse, they no like?

AL: They no like. They start fight. Sometime, they broke some all in the stable because the two, they fighting, you know. Yeah, that's why, must know from the feet, look what color, the name. All, they got the name. Any kind name, Filipino name, Haole name, or Hawaiian name, any kind. They got the name. Horse and mule got different [names], you know.

CP: How did you get the job as stable man?

AL: Hoo. I got two time. First time in 1924, they take me for work on the stable. I told 'em, "Oh? How I can? Today, this kind time strike [i.e., the 1924 Filipino strike]. I scared.

"No, no, no. No scared. You only one man over there. Nobody going bother you."

"Oh, I go try." Anyway, I go try. Oh, I like the job. But the time I going pau hana time, because I no sleep there [at the stable] yet. Because I [still] stay in the Kōloa camp that time. When I come home, I going ride the horse. No, I going ride the train already for come home because the horse I going up and down because I'm the one for take something. I come the big [i.e., main] stable for order what [supplies] I need. So-and-so, this one, I need over there for tomorrow morning. You got to put 'em in the cane top car, because we going use 'em. That's why, when pau hana time, the horse I going ride, I leave the horse over there in that stable because just I practice, eh? And then, I going ride the train. Oh, son of a gun, the locomotor before, they going park over there near by the Government road, you know. They [strikers] go, "Oh, you, Andres, you working over there. You wait. You no going strike, I know what place, what road I go for catch you over there at stable."

Oh, I bin got scared, boy. Tell 'em [plantation supervisor], "No

can." Even they fire to me right now, I no going stay over there. I know I no going work. I work over there about one month. Yeah. "No can, no can."

[Plantation supervisor said,] "You work little while [longer]. I watch out. They get plenty guy, he going watch over here. You watch in the mountain, you watch by your side. Nobody can fool around. Go ahead, I go find men yet."

Okay, I work, work, work, work. But hard time for find men for go work that stable, you know. Because you work over there, no, you got funny kind your mind because you don't know that kind style, outside and inside, that's all your responsibility. Ah, they wen find men already. Okay. I go back my job, any kind.

CP: Oh, so you went back to your regular, the mule job?

AL: Mule job, I work. Just wagon, any kind. All da kine after that they give me, I go back for the dump car for pick up firewood. Supply to the people in the camp because no more stove, before. No more. Use all da kine firewood.

CP: Now, when you worked in the mule job . . .

AL: Oh, the mule job, any kind mule job, they wen pass to my hand. From one mule, two mule, until seven.

CP: And what did you have to do?

AL: The seven mule. Five mule, same thing, two men. The seven mule, same thing, two men. One stay driving, one stay holding the plow.

CP: And what did you do? You drove?

AL: Oh, that, hard job there. Because for plow alone, the plow, I tell you, the breaking plow is heavy. And never mind if good place, no more stone, all right. But stone place, so many guys, they going throw blood over the center. They catch the handle over here and broke the rib. Mm hmm. Yeah, but God help me, boy, I'm small man but husky man. Nothing wen touch me. Quick, I pass any kind job. Yeah, I wen pass da kine for the hardest job, that one for make the line before, the hanawai, yeah, for irrigation line. Then they take me for drive mule. Stay there about how many months. One year, I think, bring the cane outside and bring the empty car inside [the field] for load up the cane, you know.

CP: The [cane] car is driven by mules?

AL: Oh, yeah, because the train [locomotive] no can go inside the cut-cane place. The one can go inside the cutting field [is driven by mules] and they put 'em over there, the empty car. And when they fill up, the mules going bring out [to the locomotive]. No more machine, yet, though, before.

CP: Oh, and no more trucks either? No more trucks?

AL: Oh, the plantation, before I come, only two truck, before. Yeah. No can go inside the field, cutting field. No can. Because so many da kine, yeah.

Then they finish take the cane over there for load up the cane car. We bring out. If complete finish, well, they take 'em out, that one, and put 'em other place.

That's why, oh, boy, get hard time. 'Cause before, I think no 'nough the empty car. Because we no can [go] home quick. We come home about eight o'clock in the night. And we leave about two o'clock in the morning for bring the cane car inside the cutting field [from] the main [track]. Bring 'em over there and then finish, we go home.

CP: So everything, they carry?

AL: Oh, yeah. All manpower, all manpower. Mm hmm. That's why, we leave in the morning. The empty car always stay line up on the main [track]. Yeah, we take 'em that one, little by little. Dark place, yet. Some mules fall down over there.

CP: Oh, it's dark, yeah?

AL: Mm hmm [yes], mm hmm. Fall down.

CP: Did you carry your lantern or torches with you?

AL: No more, no more.

CP: You go out completely dark?

AL: Go with completely dark. Lucky if we got moonlight. If no more, shee, how dark, boy.

CP: Oh, hard to see, then?

AL: Yeah, hard. That's danger, though. And then, the stable man, he go home. Oh, he bin quit. They call me again. I no like already. I wen try already the stable. I no can. "You work only one year," then no can again. No, no can stand. They call me again. Ah, number four time, the manager, he wen tell, "No more other people already. Only you, how many time. What's the matter with you? I put you in a standing luna, you no like. Any kind, you no like. What kind now? We got hard time. We no can put anybody over there for he don't know about mule job. More better put the man know the job."

CP: So that's why they ask you, because you know all the other jobs . . .

AL: Yeah, mm hmm. Ah, shit, I no can do nothing. I bin go [work] over there [in 1926]. Yeah, until [1946]. The machinists all come and they shut the stable [i.e., mechanization eliminated the need for horses and mules on the plantation]. If no more the machinists, I think I got a pension over there.

CP: When you went to become the stableman, did they give you a raise?

AL: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I bin got up thirty-eight dollars [a month] in the pay. That's the highest pay, that's high class already. No more more than that. Thirty-eight dollars in twenty-six days. And then, I wen got forty dollars over there.

CP: At the stable?

AL: Mm hmm. And then, the forty dollars, I bin got two hours overtime every day. Good money, though. Yeah, I beat some high luna, the standing luna or riding horse luna, I beat.

CP: Oh, yeah? You beat them in pay?

AL: Yeah. That's why, oh, everybody come jealous. I supposed to I bin got, the stable, only the first time, only thirty-five dollar, I work in there. Yeah.

CP: But the other guy, he quit because the work was too hard?

AL: Oh, kinda hard and scared. They said, oh, get some job over there nighttime. Oh, so-and-so there. Scared. Yeah. But me, I say, "To hell with that." Scared, I catch 'em, well, I try.

CP: How many horses did you have to take care of?

AL: Oh, no count. No count. Sometime little, sometime too much. But mostly this side, because that's the biggest field over there. All the mill, going pile [cane] over there. Because the stable alone only, I don't know. Hundred eighty, I think, alone. Yeah, two. You try count that.

CP: Hundred eighty stables?

AL: No, the number. Hundred eighty room. Hundred eighty room, but that, two each room. Yeah, the stall.

CP: Oh, so more. More than 300 [horses], then?

AL: Yeah. And we get some across over there. That's extra. That for the small kind, they calling, "pack saddle horses." Horses or mule, like that. The young kind. No more house. Just feed 'em, that one, early morning time. Feed 'em. That, plenty, you know. That's why, Sunday, sore head. Hmm! Boy, how danger, your life over there, that time.

CP: What did you have to do, when you start work? When did you get up in the morning to start?

AL: Oh, no car. So long get business in the stable, if I know, I go. Morning time, I look, some horses fly out. Because they bin fight, eh? Yeah. Suppose like that, you going fly.

CP: When the horse fly out, then you got to go look for 'em?

AL: Oh, yeah. So long nighttime, I know, I no sleep. But I sleep sometime, and well, the hell. No can do nothing, eh?

CP: You had to feed the horses?

AL: About one o'clock, I think, or half past twelve, we start feed 'em already because we get plenty--long stable, eh? That one, they get the ready-made cane tops, they grind over there from the main stable. Yeah, that's the one, we feed 'em, put 'em in the feed box. Then, push box back, the barley stay under.

CP: Barley?

AL: Yeah, you know barley, eh? Just like mush, for feed. That one, they grind in the stable, too. I don't know come from where. And then they mix up some pineapple skin, the dry one, they mix up over there for the horse.

CP: You said the railroad runs through the stable?

AL: Oh, yeah. Middle. This stable, eh? Over here, the railroad. Over there, the horse, this side horse.

CP: Oh, then you can just load the horses onto the railroad car?

AL: Mm hmm. Yeah, and then morning time, that's when I going get the coffee tin. The big kind coffee tin, that's the one, you give. Side to side. Not one side, 'cause bumbai big trouble, this side, too. He going fight, you know, why long time he no eat da kine. So he eat that kind barley and pineapple skin.

CP: You got to give them water, too, yeah?

AL: Oh, no. When the people, they take out that morning time, that's when they pass over there by the water tank for give water.

CP: Oh, I see, I see. So you don't have to take care of the water?

AL: No, no. Because the big kind water tank over there. And pau hana time, too, that's the one, they give them water out there. But morning time, every horse is ready. I going make ready how many taking that big plow, how many taking the small plow, how many taking the haul-cane mule. Because I going make ready over there for pile. The people [i.e., workers], they going to come, take the

[horses]. Got to put in the field, eh, the daytime. Bring barley, then he going put inside the cane top themself or plenty mix up to that. [Some workers say,] "Oh, my horse, he no eat cane top, only the barley."

"Well, you got to do, bumbai your horse no more strong for work, no blame me." But he do. That's all.

CP: So, did people take these horses early in the morning? They come and get the . . .

AL: Yeah, early in the morning, early in the morning. Half past five, he come over there. The mule job, he come more earlier than the other kind job.

CP: And the other guys, when do they come?

AL: Oh, no more. The pack saddle men, more late. But the plowmen and the haul cane guy, that's more early. The haul cane, that's more early. But the regular plowmen, he come regular, seven o'clock or half past six, I think, start. That's the one, they going pick up the barley--put in the mule, outside. They got the kaukau feed box.

CP: Feed box?

AL: Yeah. Because eleven o'clock [i.e., lunchtime], close already. They stop work and feed the mule, the horse, like that.

CP: Now, when these people took the horses out, did they have their own food to give also in the field?

AL: Yeah, they got to bring from the stable before they work.

CP: So, they carry it in bags?

AL: Oh, they carry in the bag.

CP: Saddle bag?

AL: Well, yeah, they grab bag. Too many to carry or my partner, "Oh, you bring the barley only or we going half-half. I bring the cane top or you bring the barley."

"Oh, go ahead, I bring the barley. Or you bring the cane top, that's all right."

Then the eating time, eleven o'clock, that's the one, they going help together for. . . . But they give water first. They got the water tank there, they going follow, you know. Get the big kind water tank for drink, the horses, before they feed 'em. And then, he eat lunch. One hour, you know, eleven [o'clock] to twelve [o'clock]. Yeah.

CP: So when they're gone during the daytime, all the horses are gone [from the stable]?

AL: Oh, some.

CP: Some?

AL: Some, oh, you got plenty, huh? Ten or fifteen. But no more trouble because only little. That one, [if] the grass over there, no more damp, I put 'em in the pasture. And then, I catch 'em again about half past two, three o'clock. Yeah, that easy because not too [many], huh? Easy, some. He going inside the box one by one. Some, all one time he come back the stable. They come inside, ho, boy, I don't know. They wild, you know, when you put the head inside the feed box. Oh, he like catch you and then he no like somebody go near. So, ho, scared, eh, go inside there. Close, you know, to the body to the mule. And plenty.

CP: Did you have any weapons or anything?

AL: Why? Whip?

CP: Like weapons. No, did you have like a whip or stick or something?

AL: No, how you can da kine? More, he come wild, bumbai you no can catch.

CP: Oh, so you don't have anything? Only your bare hand?

AL: No, only you bring the rope, that's all. You go over there and grab the neck for da kine and bring 'em outside or bring 'em by his room. But for go outside or inside, hard, you know. Because you know, only some, they can go inside three in a room. But mostly, two-two. But hard. The horses, he going kick. But just only I look out, I skip little bit, no catch. Get plenty time, he catch me little bit but not too much. (Laughs)

CP: So you only used the rope, yeah? Only the rope?

AL: Yeah. Just put [around] the neck. Because they know. I go bring 'em outside. Yeah. But for put 'em for go inside, because the room, he stay, they got the [other] horse over there, yeah, that's when we go hit 'em, hit 'em, hit 'em.

CP: Oh, yeah?

AL: Yeah, hit 'em for go inside. That's why, I going high on the neck. I not going touch that one because, ho, boy, if he going stop me, what? Yeah, I going grab the neck. Then when we reach there [i.e., his stall], oh, how wild bugger. He like kick the [other] horse bin go inside. "Why you bring inside here for?" How danger, you know. Scared. But long time, you know, I have to get 'em already, you get used to.

CP: Yeah. But you worked that job long time, eh?

AL: Long time. [Nineteen] twenty-six until. . . . [Nineteen] forty-seven or. . . . No. [Nineteen] forty-five, I think.

CP: About twenty years.

AL: Yeah, about twenty, twenty-two year.

CP: You never had any helpers?

AL: Oh, get. You got a guy.

CP: How many helpers you get?

AL: One. One, every time.

CP: Only one?

AL: Only one. One, every time. That's the one [collect] the manure every morning. Yeah, put on the cane car.

CP: Oh, now, what did you do? You put the manure into the cane car?

AL: Yeah. Then put 'em outside, and locomotor going take 'em, bring 'em in the field.

CP: Do you shovel it in from the stable?

AL: No. No, they take 'em out, they clean the stable, and put on the cane car.

CP: How do you get the manure onto the car? You use a shovel?

AL: Yeah, the shovel. The shovel, big kind shovel.

CP: Then, these cane cars, are those the one that bring in the cane top?

AL: Yeah.

CP: And the barley, too?

AL: Mm hmm. That's the one.

CP: So, they go out and they take the manure out into the fields someplace and dump, then they come back with the cane top and the . . .

AL: Yeah, but maybe different car already, I don't know. I don't know how long that because he going pile on that so many car. And then, the locomotor, he going take 'em, what field, they going throw away. Somebody, he going unload over there. Yeah.

CP: You had accident, yeah, one time?

AL: Oh, that one, that's different. I went over here in the shop. I wen bring over there for shoes up the horse. And then, one horse, wild bugger, he scared over there. He no going inside the stall, eh? I wen grab the neck, I push, push, push, that horse. Oh, boy, one time, he wen stand up. I better let go. I look, high already the ground, no can. I no can hold. I bin fall down, huh? The horse, he know already, he can catch me. He kick me. I no can move. I stay flying yet. Catch me over here. Three rib wen broke. Boy, I thought--even the doctor. At the time he bin see me, "Ho, you safe already. I thought you going [die] because the bone bin touch the heart." Because the bone, it wen broke.

CP: What year was that?

AL: Oh, nineteen. . . .

BL: Nineteen forty-one.

AL: Nineteen forty-one, huh? Nineteen forty-one.

BL: Yeah, because Rose, she stay married already. Yeah, '41.

CP: But you were still working in the stable that time?

AL: Oh, after about three month, I think, I stay da kine. But sore, you know. Hoo, sore.

CP: Did you have to have a operation?

AL: Oh, how can [I be] alive if he never take out the rotten inside, all the blood. No can. And yet, before, we got hard time for collect the blood. No more blood bank--blood before. Yeah, the people, nobody go give blood. And lucky, you get one for today 'cause we get my friend, too.

BL: Gonzales, Alfredo Gonzales.

AL: Yeah, that time, no more. They no like give again. Lucky, my wife's blood is . . .

BL: Ready for die.

AL: Ready, though.

BL: And suppose no more blood now?

AL: Pau.

BL: All gone. No more five minutes. And then, you tell, more better turn in your blood. That's right. Oh, I give.

AL: They take. That's the one.

BL: The doctor, he said, "Andres, you lucky you alive. Your wife, she feed you the blood." Oh, I come weak, you know.

AL: Yeah, that, one pint, you know.

BL: Yeah. But me healthy because pau operation, huh?

AL: Yeah, that's all, that kind. That time I living in the stable. Danger.

BL: So my husband he got sick in the bed; me, too, I got sick in the bed because same blood. (Chuckles)

AL: Yeah, my back, I stand on my feet, boy, how funny.

CP: Did you own your horse, too? The plantation, they let you have horses also?

BL: Oh, how plenty horse. He wen owner, any kind horse, he ride.

CP: They give you horse, too?

AL: Oh, for my own? My own? My own horse for . . .

BL: Mary, the name.

AL: But I wen put this nail over here into the stable for bring over there, the horse, for take out one pair shoes. For bring over there for shoes up, put the shoes. The riding horse, only.

CP: Oh, the shoes. Ah, yeah. You had someone, he was a blacksmith or something?

AL: Yeah, blacksmith over there.

CP: Who was that? You remember?

AL: Oh, this Domingo Cataluna. That's the one, he stay over there long time. Domingo Cataluna. And what the name, that Gus boy?

BL: Willie?

AL: No, I don't want the. . . . Forget the name, the boy.

BL: But helper.

AL: Helper to Domingo.

BL: That one, Domingo the boss in the stable.

AL: Yeah, he stay Mainland now. Yeah, the name Cataluna. I don't know

if still living yet.

CP: You know, I was interested to know if the plantation, they give you the horse like that and how many horses they give you.

AL: Oh, well, up to me. I go find the good kind horse for I riding. Because I got no more car yet before. From over there, I going come in the big stable for order something, any kind, what I need over there for use for the people working, eh?

AL: Me, just like general. Oh, nice kind horse I got.

CP: Did they put a brand on the mules?

AL: No more, no more, no more. No, the mule come from all Chicago and New York, the new one. No more.

CP: No markings?

AL: No nothing, nothing, nothing. Just only know from the feet to the body and the eye. You must know that. But mostly same. The mule same, the horse same.

CP: So, actually, only you, the only one that really knows, yeah?

AL: Not only me. The different one, they stop there long time. But only one year, they give up. Scared. One year, no more.

BL: No more. How many--Korean, Hapon . . .

AL: Hapon, Filipino.

BL: . . . Filipino. Only him, number one.

AL: Me, the longest stay.

CP: Did you let the children ride the horses, too?

AL: Well, only the old one, but no, I no trust. I scared bumbai.

BL: Ask him, the children.

AL: Yeah, he [AL's children] going ask me for "I going ride horse," kind of good one horse. I going that one they know, he no scared nothing. I going give him.

BL: My place number one danger kind place. Over here, locomotor, he pass. Over there, big kind lake [i.e., reservoir]. Over there, stable.

AL: The stable about, this one over here, stable, only railroad, this one over here, my house.

CP: Oh, I see. So your stable right next to the house, then?

AL: Yeah.

CP: And how many rooms did your house have? How many rooms in your house?

AL: Oh, we got big house, though.

CP: Big house like this?

AL: Junk house. Old kind. Just old kind style. Old kind chicken coop house kind, but big one. Yeah.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

CP: Mr. Labrador, did you only speak Visayan when you came to Hawai'i?

AL: Yeah.

CP: And then, when you worked with everybody, you learned to speak . . .

AL: Oh, no more da kine. This kind English, no more yet. All mix up, over there. The Hapon and . . .

BL: Hawaiian.

AL: . . . Hawaiian.

BL: Ah, Pāke.

AL: Pāke.

BL: Mix-up English.

AL: Yeah, kapakahi English. Kapakahi. This kind English, no more this kind, yet. I pick up here and there, well, just right. But before one, if I tell you the hea-hea kind (laughs). "Man hea go" (Man, go here).

BL: He talk Japanese and English.

CP: Oh, yeah?

AL: Yeah.

BL: Ay. "Man hea go down below, up," see.

CP: Oh, Japanese had their own pidgin?

AL: Oh, that mix up already. We understand. No can understand Filipino or Japanese or Hawaiian. Well, me sabe. If no can understand that kind word, [we use] the signal. You know?

CP: Then, Ilocano, too, you learned from talking to the Ilocano?

AL: Ah, that time I work at the stable, the Ilocano, he going come over there sometime. For clean the yard, what kind. So, what I going do? I no can talk [Ilocano], no sabe talk English. Some can talk English, though. I talking some Visayan or Tagalog. I know little bit Tagalog. Visayan and Tagalog, only little different.

BL: What if suppose you no understanding? Oh, boy . . .

AL: Hard, you know. Hard.

BL: That's why, my husband, I tell, "I like go home Philippines." I no like this one because something trouble, I go over there, oh, boy, how big men. And then, how they talk, I scared.

AL: Hard time.

BL: Hard time, you know.

AL: Before, we working, working, don't know nothing. Our luna is Portuguese. But no more other kind. Visayan or what. Ilocano, about twenty-five come in, one boat. Come from Honolulu.

BL: Two wahines.

AL: Two. Some, Ilocano, he can talk English, too, but the Portuguese, he no can talk English, too, the son of a gun. Yeah, the luna, he no can, you know, the foreman, our foreman.

CP: He cannot speak English either?

AL: He no can talk English, too. Some, lōlō, too.

BL: Why not? He no go school over here, no more nothing.

AL: Yeah, because that time they order any kind for come in Hawai'i for work, eh? That's why, especially our time, no more student going come over here. Sign your name good kind handwriting, they find out. "Ah, you student, no can [come to Hawai'i]."

BL: 'Cause over here hāpai, that one, the cane. Hard work.

AL: No can.

CP: After you worked the stable, [could you] speak different languages?

AL: Oh, the time I come finish work for in the stable about so many year.

BL: Twenty-two [years].

AL: Twenty-two. Oh, no. [Nineteen] forty-five, I think, no?

BL: Forty-five what?

AL: Nineteen forty-five, all quit the stable. Yeah, '46, the strike.

CP: Oh, what did you do during that strike in 1946?

AL: I working yet. I get the mule yet, that time. I stay working. I stay watching the stable. Oh, that '46 [strike], no, no more trouble. Good kind . . .

BL: Oh, no trouble. Only [1924].

CP: What kind of strike was that? [CP is asking about the 1924 Filipino strike, in which sixteen Visayan strikers and four policemen were killed during a riot in Hanapepe.]

AL: Nineteen twenty-four? Oh, that's lucky-lucky. Lucky-lucky, alive or not. That's why, the Filipino over there, he bin fight to the machine gun.

BL: Hanapēpē [1924].

CP: Did you go on that strike?

AL: No, I never go strike that time.

CP: How come you never go?

AL: Oh, because . . .

BL: Give birth.

AL: My wife just giving birth.

CP: And you scared to go strike? You don't want to quit your job? You don't want to lose your job?

AL: No, I no mention, but I like help my blood. But how can? More worse, if I go over there, get hard time. I get two baby, already. I get the number two baby, just give birth, eh?

BL: Only two week.

CP: And how about the strike in 1946?

AL: Oh, that one, good. Because all understanding already, the people.

CP: Did you strike in that strike?

AL: All strike. All strike already. But I never go here and there. Only I stay home for watch in the stable same time. Because I wen talk to the boss. "If you going bring me outside [i.e., assign AL elsewhere], can do, but you remember, over there, they get plenty kind thing. All the luna, that saddle over there, all big kind price, you know. Some \$200, \$300. And they leave over here. You going lose this one. Even he take himself and they blame me. What you fella go do? You fella no can help. You fella going pay or he going cover everything? More better I go watch here." I never move.

CP: So, the whole time the strike was on, all the horses stay in the stable?

AL: He go in the pasture. Yeah, and then they catch 'em again.

CP: When did you start to go to work with the mill? You said you went to work at the mill after stable man, yeah?

BL: Pau already on Kōloa Plantation.

AL: No. What year that we wen move over here [i.e., present home in New Mill Camp]?

BL: [Nineteen] forty-eight . . .

AL: [Nineteen] forty-eight, eh?

BL: . . . [Nineteen] forty-nine, because . . .

CP: Nineteen forty-nine?

AL: Yeah, '49. He said, oh, they going close the stable. No more animal. And lucky thing, I get friend over there, the superintendent in the mill. "No, no, no worry. I give you job." Because I like go home. If they never give me job, I go home, Philippines.

CP: Now, what kind of machinery came to replace the horses? You said that they closed the stable down, because the machinists came?

AL: Oh, for grab the cane. For load the cane in the cane car. Yeah. But first time, the people, they [still] stay cutting cane, they pile, and then [the machine] grab 'em, put 'em on the truck. They put the cable over there, and then they hook 'em, put on the cane car. Yeah. And the second [machine, i.e., cane grabber], no more men [were required to cut the cane]. Only the machine. Yeah. They push [i.e., bulldoze] the cane, and they grab 'em, put 'em in the cane [truck]. Somebody wreck over there, the behind. So, no more men already.

CP: So, they didn't need to have the horses anymore?

AL: No, pau. They throw away, that time.

CP: But the horses used to carry the cane in on cars, right?

AL: No, no more, no more car, nothing. No, the big kind truck already come inside that.

CP: Oh, I see, I see. In other words, after 1949, then that's when all the big trucks and the machinery came?

AL: Yeah, that '48, yeah, about, they start that. They pile the cane. Somebody cut the cane and they pile, and then the grab. They put chains under, they grab 'em and put on the cane car. And then, they find some other kind style, too. They bulldoze the cane and just grab 'em. Until now [i.e., today].

CP: Did lot of people lose their job . . .

AL: Oh, plenty people. That one, no good record over here, they throw away [i.e., lay off]. Yeah, that one good, they keep 'em. They put some other [capacity] like that, who like. But if he no good, tell 'em, "Oh, you pau. Finish."

CP: Did you know people who lost their jobs? Friends of yours who lose their jobs?

AL: Oh, they're plenty.

CP: But you lucky, you got one job in the mill, yeah?

AL: Oh, because, oh, boy, how good record I got. Until now, my name good. Good name yet.

CP: What did you do in the mill when you went to the mill?

AL: I work over there about one year, I no more department yet. No department, I got. I just sweep here and there.

CP: Who was your boss at the time? Who was your luna?

AL: Oh, I got the luna over there, da kine, the Hapon. But the superintendent over there, they got the Haole, [Samuel] Wickey.

CP: Mr. Wickey?

AL: Mr. Wickey. Oh, that one, I stay over there about one year in outside, the handy[man]. Sometime he borrow me here and there. They put me over there, but hard, you know, because we never try [before], eh? Bumbai next time, other kind job. But same thing, you got to teach yet. Just like hard, you know, for the people, they don't know. You working good, but no can be good, because you no experience, yet. But after, oh, I got already about one year, they give me that job for dig the sugar for unload the number two

machine. Then I got the job already. About little while, oh, they put me for assistant da kine, second to the luna in the mill. Him luna over there, but just I follow him. "So-and-so, you do that. Watch the people." And him, the highest. Me, under him.

CP: Oh, so you were his assistant?

AL: Yeah, just assistant luna.

CP: So you just go around and you watch?

AL: You watch, mm hmm. And then, the machine, our people, we watch, about nine people, I think, each shift. One shift, nine. That's all, they going away. No more people, all machine. Son of a gun, what you going do now? Our luna tell, "Well, you fella take care this one. You fella can operate this one. You fella going take care now." We bin take care. We take care that machine. Yeah, for so many year. But tired, you know, for look out the machine only. Any kind trouble, new stuff. But shee, boy, I tell you, the machine, before. I don't know. I feel funny.

CP: How come?

AL: How hard job, the people before, no more machine yet. You know, for dig the sugar? The hand, for dig the sugar, the number one. You got to go for plow the sugar for go and put 'em in the flume. And for load up, too. We got to open the gate and watch out no overflow, you get enough load. Ooh, the machine, he bin come. Son of a gun, he know everything. He know how to pick up (chuckles) the cover over there, in the bottom. When they going hang up, they going hang up over there. And then, he plow himself. Nobody da kine. They take off the cover and they put 'em good over there, and then they open the water for shoot. The machine, he running all that. How easy. He load; he watch himself how just right; he cook, himself. Nothing, nothing, just watch, the people.

CP: All they got to do is just watch to see the machine is running?

AL: Just watch if something missing. Yeah, something missing, then quick, you call the luna. "Oh, so-and-so this one, he no work. Missing." Call the mechanic or electrician, that's all. Hoo, the electrical, I tell you, he working more better than to the men, I tell you, now. Why he know to pick up the goddamn cover over there? (Laughs) Huh? No, before, we blister our hand, you know, go take the heavy kind cover.

CP: But it make you feel funny?

AL: Oh, I feel funny because just they give us to the job. "Oh, you fellas no job now. You fella not luna, well, you better take care this one if you like. You no like, I no can do nothing. I no can give other job." Yeah, you gotta watch out. Three men, one no can. He wen quit.

CP: He quit?

AL: He quit because no can read for move the dial, da kine for how many minute, how many da kine. He no can, that's why, they got hard time.

CP: So, some of these guys, they get hard time operate the machines?

AL: Because, you know the machine, you know the first time you learn, just try out and watch out for how many minutes. Yeah. You hard or no 'nough cook. Put more better kind. Yeah, but four machine or three machine. Boy, the sugar, until here, where the flume. About three hour. The sugar around.

CP: So you became a luna there and then you retired after that, yeah?

AL: Oh, I wen retire from that for look out that machine, the sugar machine.

CP: What year did you retire?

AL: Oh, 1966, late, October. Until now. Long time already, no?

CP: Twenty-two years already.

AL: Son of a gun, get plenty money already wen eat, no? But the body, not so good.

CP: Are you glad that you came to Hawai'i?

AL: Ah, well, what you going do now? Look like I forget already because I bin go visit [Philippines] one time. Big difference already, the way I stay here and over there.

BL: Forty year, I stay here before . . .

AL: I stay forty year before I go and visit. Big difference. We stay over there three month.

CP: Did you like it when you went back?

AL: Oh, well, if I no more children over here, maybe I go. But I got children. Oh, I tell 'em, "What say? You fella, you like stay in Philippines? I going buy some lot over there."

"Oh, we no more friend over there. No like."

BL: What time you leave today?

CP: I going to stop the machine.

END OF INTERVIEW

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